

REPORT

DATE: October 7, 2004

TO: Administration Committee
Regional Council

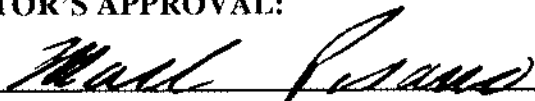
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SUBJECT: Staff Activities Regarding Homeland Security Including Co-sponsorship
of a Regional Conference

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize SCAG's co-sponsorship of a Homeland Security Conference in conjunction with UCLA.

SUMMARY:

In the fourth quarter of FY 2003-2004, SCAG initiated a steering committee on Regional Data & Information Sharing with a focus on Homeland Security. The Steering Committee met twice on May 5th and July 23rd of 2004. The committee members discussed the need for regional coordination on data and information sharing among jurisdictions in planning and preparation for emergency response in case of a large-scale regional disaster. In addition, committee members have proposed a regional conference on homeland security. The objectives of this conference are to open a dialogue between regional stakeholders on issues of terrorism and homeland security and to identify SCAG's roles and responsibilities in facilitating a regional coordination in homeland security. SCAG and UCLA staffs are working together to jointly organize a regional conference on homeland security for this fall.

In FY 2004-2005, SCAG will develop and incorporate homeland security as part of the new Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). This effort will consist of an assessment of the roles and responsibilities of federal, regional, and local government agencies identifying security issues pertaining to transit, goods movement, aviation, highways, and waterways, and determination of vulnerability of the regional transportation facilities and services. The Comprehensive Plan will address the availability of current data and future data needs for emergency preparedness and response planning in the region. In addition, the RCP will identify key deficiencies, as well as development of a program to disseminate and coordinate the information related to emergency preparedness and planning.

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BACKGROUND:

Given the regional nature of an incident of the scale and scope of the events of September 11th or of a sizeable natural disaster such as earthquake or fire, SCAG has potentially an important role in dissemination of data and information among jurisdictions. Since access to information is critical to any regional effort, SCAG's transportation, land use, and socioeconomic data and information can be shared by other agencies in case of emergency. Additionally, SCAG can play a critical role in facilitating a regional effort on homeland security through the planning process. A steering committee representing the SCAG region has been working with SCAG staff to outline regional needs for data and information sharing. The role of SCAG as the MPO in the region for data and information sharing as well as planning and coordination in such events were the main issues in both meetings.

FISCAL IMPACT:

All work related to this program including staff time for the conference is budgeted within the adopted FY2004-2005 and does not require any additional financial resources. *th*

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